

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-14, 16-38, and 40-77.

Applicants agree that the combination of features recited in each of the independent claims is patentable. To the extent that the Examiner's reasons for allowance are inconsistent with or add additional limitations to the claims, Applicants respectfully disagree because the claims define the invention.

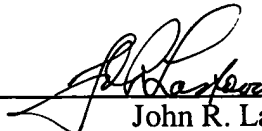
The Examiner has noted in a number of informalities in the claims which have been remedy by amendment. Regarding the objections to claims 15 and 39, claim 15 has been amended to provide the proper dependency from claim 14, and the typographical error in claim 39 has been corrected.

The application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


John R. Lastova
Reg. No. 33,149

JRL:sd
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100